



# BrookNotes

October 2009

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

Volume XXII, No. 8

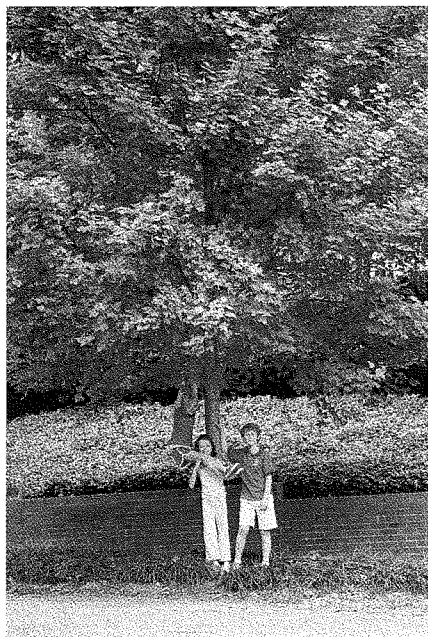
## Restore Our Canopy! Plant a Tree!

*By Boyd Gentry, Community Club Tree Committee Chair*

I guess the Gentrys are now truly indoctrinated Brookwood Hills neighbors. No, it isn't because we have lived in the neighborhood for over a dozen years, or that we are on our second house in the neighborhood. It is of course that we have experienced the loss of one of the original magnificent water oaks in front of our house. We now share that experience with so many of our fellow Brookwood Hills neighbors.

The reason for my reference is to point out the obvious – the water oaks are all but gone – there are just a few isolated stretches of our neighborhood where we still have these original trees and by my count we currently have 16 “orange dotted” hazardous trees awaiting the axe.

To regenerate the Brookwood Hills “urban forest”, we must plant and nurture more large canopy trees, such as oaks and maples. For people living on the power line side of the street, such trees need to be planted in the front yard; those living on the other side of the street may choose to plant them either in their front yard or at street level.



As you can see from the picture at left of the street tree in front of 90 Palisades Road, what started out less than ten years ago as a small one-to-two-inch caliper tree planted by Trees Atlanta is now an established tree approaching 50 feet in height. Millie Long, Casey Gentry and Sam McCollum – all Fourth Graders at E. Rivers – are included for scale reference. But enough about the history lesson – what can you do to help restore our tree canopy? First, you can join your friends and neighbors and participate in the upcoming December 5<sup>th</sup> neighborhood tree planting sponsored by Trees Atlanta. Second, you can purchase and plant an oak or maple tree in your front or back yard. On December 5<sup>th</sup> we'll meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Park Pavilion for an al fresco breakfast. Tree planting teams, including volunteers from outside the neighborhood, will fan out with their assignments. The tree planting will continue until noon, but volunteers are

welcome to come work for any amount of time that can be committed. Anyone can help. The work is not overly strenuous and there will be experienced Trees Atlanta staff and volunteers to assist us. What better way to emphasize the importance of our trees than by volunteering to plant them? This is appropriate for the entire family. (Cont'd. on page 3)



## BROOKNOTES

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Open Position

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### Security Alert Signs

When you see the **Security Alert signs** posted at the entrances to our neighborhood, please call the **Brookwood Hills Security Information Line 404-325-5114** for details concerning a recent security incident. These signs are a signal that an incident has occurred in the neighborhood and the information has been recorded on the hotline. The cell phone number for the neighborhood security patrol is 404-242-3321.

## BWH Book Club

*By Maureen Zent*

Brookwood Hills neighbor and novelist Kathryn Stockett will discuss her *New York Times* Best Seller *The Help* at the next meeting of the Brookwood Hills Book Club. Set in Mississippi in the early Sixties, *The Help* is the story of three extraordinary women whose determination to start a movement of their own forever changes a town, and the way women -- mothers, daughters, caregivers, friends -- view one another. The *Washington Post* described the novel as "a page-turner that brings new resonance to the moral issues involved." The Book Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 2nd, at the home ofCarolynn Cooper, 38 Camden Road.

The Brookwood Hills Book Club welcomes new members and visitors. We meet every other month and read a wide variety of books -- current novels, classics, non-fiction. This is a great way to meet and get to know neighbors better and discover great books. For more information please contact me, Maureen Zent, at [mzent1@bellsouth.net](mailto:mzent1@bellsouth.net).

## Attention Huntington Road

*By Kathleen Waldrop*

The Annual Huntington Road Block Party will take place on Sunday, October 25th from 5:30 p.m - 7:30 p.m. at the Pool Pavilion. The festivities will happen rain or shine. If you have any questions call me, Kathleen Waldrop, at 404/784-0005.

*BrookNotes* welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas. The deadline for the next issue of *BrookNotes* is Wednesday, November 4th, 2009. Submissions may be e-mailed to [brooknotes@brookwoodhills.com](mailto:brooknotes@brookwoodhills.com) or dropped off at 200 Camden Road.

## Restore Our Canopy (Cont'd. from page 1)

My Fourth Grader Casey has assisted for several years. The more volunteers that we have, the more quickly we finish. In addition, you may not be aware that many volunteers from outside our neighborhood come and plant trees in Brookwood Hills. In fact some years it has been embarrassing how few Brookwood Hills residents have joined the civic-minded Trees Atlanta volunteers from all over the metro area! *Finally, this is a great way for our teenagers and scouts to get service hours.* Let's show our gratitude to Trees Atlanta by turning out in force and demonstrating our commitment to Atlanta's canopy and our neighborhood. Please send me an email at [bpentry@comcast.net](mailto:bpentry@comcast.net) if you plan to volunteer so we can get a good count for breakfast and for tree planting purposes.

If you would like to plant a tree in your front yard or at the street, you may choose a tree from a list of "site appropriate" trees that are well adapted to urban conditions and will cause fewer problems than the water oaks that were planted many years ago. Trees Atlanta will provide fifteen-gallon (or smaller) trees for \$25; larger trees (e.g., 25 gallon) will be available at a cost of \$50 per tree. These costs include planting by volunteers, and are significantly below the price you could expect to pay a commercial nursery. Trees Atlanta is also offering you the opportunity to purchase trees for your back yard, but the cost for such trees will be slightly higher (approximately \$75 on average), and you will be responsible for planting such trees yourself.

All donations to Trees Atlanta are welcomed, especially if you cannot actively participate in the planting. Donations made in memory or honor of individuals will be published in *BrookNotes*. If you want to purchase a tree, please contact Katrina Newton ([kfnewton@bellsouth.net](mailto:kfnewton@bellsouth.net)) if you live on Brighton, Camden, Montclair or Wakefield. If you live on Huntington, Palisades, Northwood, Woodcrest, or Parkdale, please contact Eve Goldstein ([eve.goldstein@att.net](mailto:eve.goldstein@att.net)). Or, if you have any questions regarding trees in the neighborhood, please feel free to contact me as your Tree Representative on the Community Club Board at the above email address or at 404/394-6596.

## Clear Creek Preserve Clean-Up

Don't forget that the Inaugural Clear Creek Preserve neighborhood clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, October 24th, starting at 9:00 a.m. We'll meet at the Pool Pavilion for breakfast (thank you Panera!). Trash collection will commence around 9:30. We'll enter the preserve at the entrance located at the intersection of Palisades and Huntington Roads. Weather permitting, there will also be a guided tour of the preserve around 11:00 a.m.

The clean-up is especially well timed due to the amount of trash and debris brought into the preserve through the recently flooded Clear Creek. We really need your help! And it is a great opportunity for Brookwood Hills neighbors to see the progress made so far towards removing the invasive plant species found throughout the preserve. Wear your gardening clothes and shoes that can handle the mud, and bring work gloves to protect your hands. Trash bags will be provided.

This is also an opportunity for your children and teens to earn volunteer hours for their school programs.

## Check Out Your Neighborhood Elementary School

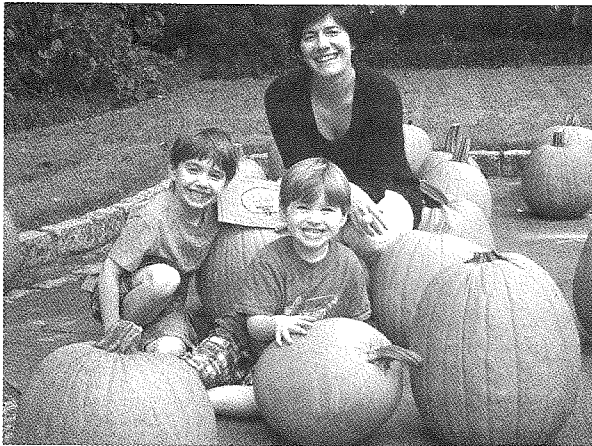
By Alison Caughman

In the interest of full disclosure, I am an Eretus Rivers Elementary School fan. Our daughter was entering Sixth Grade when we moved to Atlanta so she never got to go there. But our two sons, one an Emory graduate and the other a Duke Senior, are E. Rivers alumni. Our whole family loved our little local public school, and I now sit on the Board of the E. Rivers Foundation. By virtue of that position I have had the privilege of watching the school strengthen and grow since our children graduated and am thrilled to report that this year there are thirty-one Brookwood Hills children in attendance there. No one school is the right place for everyone of course, but I would encourage parents of young children not familiar with Rivers to give it a look on Thursday, October 22nd at 6:00 p.m., when there will be an Open House for prospective families. If you go, these are some of the statistics you will hear from Principal David White.

- Enrollment has increased dramatically, to 527 students -- up nearly 40% from when our children were there. Seventy-two children qualify for the English as a Second Language Program. Ninety-four are enrolled in the highly selective Challenge Program for academically gifted children. Approximately 200 students qualify for financial assistance with the breakfast and lunch programs.
- In 2008 Rivers received the State's Platinum Award for Greatest Gains on the CRCT, the test used to measure progress in Georgia's public schools and the test used when applying the No Child Left Behind Act to public school performance. Given the make-up of the school's student body, the goals set by the State for 2007 were modest -- about 70% of Rivers students were expected to meet or exceed the CRCT standards in reading and in mathematics. Rivers smashed through those "goals" in 2008 and continued strong achievement in the Spring of 2009 when, for example, students meeting or exceeding the CRCT standards in reading varied from a low of 93% to a high of 100% in each of the Grades 1 through 5.
- Rivers has a long-standing tradition of celebrating its vibrant, diverse student body. For the current school year 37% of the students are classified as Caucasian; 29% African American; 23% Hispanic, 7% Multi-Racial; 3% Asian/Pacific Islander; and 1% Other. In a beloved December tradition that began in 1990 (our family's first year at the school, this event was the brainchild of Brookwood Hills resident Susan Frenzel who used to live on Montclair), every single student performs in Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*. Added to the original score are African and Latino dances that reflect Rivers' mixing bowl demographics and make the production truly unique.

Is E. Rivers perfect? Surely not. One of the great things about living in Atlanta is the variety of educational settings in the area, suited to all types of children with all kinds of strengths and needs. But the days of not even considering Rivers as an option have hopefully come to an end. It could be a great place for your child to grow and thrive, and I encourage you to check it out. If you can't make the prospective parents' night on the 22nd, Rivers also holds tours on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, at 9:00 a.m. To schedule a tour call the Welcome Desk at 404/802-7065. Or call Pamela Watson (404/876-6918), Stephanie Brown (404/355-9925) or Shannon Cox (404/367-1472) for a mom's perspective.

## How Cute Is This?



Molly Jackson poses with sons Joe and John after the boys picked out THE PUMPKIN for their Fall yard decoration. 2009 marks the *twenty-sixth consecutive year* that Sarah Hagood of Specialty Homes Inc. has sponsored this fun neighborhood tradition. It must have been a bumper crop this year because Sarah's pumpkins were bigger than anyone can remember. Molly was a sight to behold carrying the Jackson pumpkin across the street to their home! Thanks Sarah, for continuing this Brookwood Hills tradition.

## Notes From the BWHCC Board

*By Gary Sayers*

You may have noticed graffiti in a couple of places within the neighborhood during the past few weeks. Security has been notified and the affected areas are being repainted. As always, if you happen to see suspicious characters in the neighborhood, please contact 911, and then you can also call the neighborhood security patrol cell phone at 404/242-3321.

As stated in the Community Club's By-Laws, the Park closes at dusk. Overnight camping is not permitted in the park without prior approval. Any group or organization that has questions about the policy or that would like to reserve the park for a party should e-mail Harvey Ross at [reservations@brookwoodhills.com](mailto:reservations@brookwoodhills.com) for more information.

## Calendar

- **Saturday, October 24, Clear Creek Preserve Clean-up**, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., details page 3
- **Sunday, October 25, Huntington Road Block Party**, 7:30 p.m. at the Pool Pavilion, details page 2
- **Saturday, October 31, Halloween Party**, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Park, pizza, costume contests and more, sponsored by Joe Noah & Associates
- **Monday, November 2, BWH Board of Directors Meeting**, 7:15 p.m. at the home of Boyd & Kathy Gentry, 84 Palisades Rd.
- **Monday, November 2, BWH Book Club Meeting**, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Carolyn Cooper, 38 Camden Rd., details page 2
- **Saturday, December 5, Trees Atlanta Planting**, 9:00 a.m. to noon, details page 1

## The Battlefield of Brookwood Hills

By David Watson

*Editor's Note: In the September 2009 issue of BrookNotes Jerry Luxemburger made reference to the Civil War fighting that took place in and around Brookwood Hills. In September 1999 David Watson published in BrookNotes a detailed description of the fighting, which is reprinted here.*

Did you know that you live on a battlefield? It is difficult to imagine that the rattle of musketry and the shriek of cannon shells once pierced the stillness of our wooded hills. But the opening phases of the Battle of Peachtree Creek did occur in this area on the afternoon of July 20, 1864. You have probably noticed the large marble monument on the hillock in front of Piedmont Hospital, as well as the markers at the Brighton Road and Palisades entrances to the neighborhood, which commemorate the battle.

The Battle of Peachtree Creek was one of the larger engagements in Sherman's campaign for Atlanta, which had begun in early May 1864 in the mountains just south of Chattanooga. The weeks of marching and skirmishing had brought the Union Army to the (then) outskirts of Atlanta. On July 18, the Confederate army experienced a change in its commander, from the cautious, defensive-minded Joseph E. Johnston to the aggressive but inexperienced John B. Hood. Hood immediately determined to strike at a portion of the Union Army as it moved south from Buckhead.

Even at that time, Peachtree Street (then called "the Peachtree road" because it ran from town up to and across Peachtree Creek) was an important route. On July 19, the 3,200 troops of the Second Division of the Union IV Corps, commanded by Brigadier General John Newton, marched southward down the road and crossed the bridge over Peachtree Creek (where E. Rivers School is today). They continued marching up the long slope known now as "Heartbreak Hill" to Peachtree Road Race participants. Newton had been informed that the main body of the Confederate Army was nearby. Therefore, when he reached the crest of the slope, he deployed his men in a line of battle running west to east from the present site of Piedmont Hospital to a point in the middle of today's Brighton Road.

Newton himself was a very able commander. He was a graduate of West Point and a veteran of many of the battles fought by the Army of the Potomac in the Virginia theater of war. Those who jog and walk along our streets can appreciate Newton's plans. The highest point in the neighborhood is the west end of Brighton, near Peachtree. Possession of the high ground is critical in military tactics, even in the heavily wooded terrain of 1864. To strengthen their position, Newton's troops hastily felled trees and constructed simple breastworks – a precaution that was almost always taken during this campaign when soldiers deployed for possible battle. A battery of four guns was placed in the area of the Peachtree road. Six more cannon were then unlimbered back at the Peachtree Creek bridge, to provide additional support. A thin line of pickets ran between the troops dug in on the ridge and Clear Creek, to prevent a surprise attack from the east.

The Confederate Army was indeed moving to the attack. They had marched northward up the Peachtree road from their outer line of fortifications near the present-day Peachtree Christian Church. Of course, there was no six-lane bridge to use. Instead, the deep valley where Interstate 85 runs today had to be traversed. They had to form lines of attack in the thick woods. Due to this and other last-minute problems that occasion most large scale military operations, the attack was several hours late. This extra time had allowed the Union troops to prepare strong defensive positions. The Confederate assault finally began around 4:00 p.m. It was initiated by the division of Major General William B. Bate, which included a brigade of Florida troops, a brigade of Kentucky troops, and a brigade of men from Tennessee and Georgia. They were positioned on the far right (east) of the Confederate line, roughly paralleling present-day Huntington Road. (Cont'd. on the next page)

## The Battle of Brookwood Hills (cont'd. from page 6)

Due to the heavy undergrowth, and because there had not been time for a reconnaissance, Bate's men had difficulty even finding the Yankee line. (Anyone who has walked in the buffer acreage between the neighborhood and Interstate 85 can appreciate the role that the thick woods and undergrowth played. It appears that the entire area was covered like this in 1864.)

Some of the troops in the Kentucky and the Tennessee/Georgia brigade struggled uphill through the dense thickets and made contact with the Union troops behind the breastworks along Brighton. However, after a few volleys, the Rebels sensed the strength of the Federal line, and did not press the attack. Most of Bate's men apparently veered around the Union left, near the intersection of Brighton and Camden Roads. This actually placed the Rebels in good position to outflank the Union line. However, fire from the Union cannon at Peachtree Creek, in addition to ignorance of the exact position of the Union line, prevented immediate exploitation.

A second Confederate division, under the command of Major General W. H. T. Walker, advanced northward along both sides of the Peachtree road, and struck the Union line hard near the present intersection of Peachtree and Brighton. The two Union brigades posted here included regiments from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Wisconsin and Kentucky. The seasoned Midwesterners laid down a withering fire and, aided by the four pieces of artillery placed there, repulsed the Confederates with heavy casualties. Confederate Brigadier General C. H. Stevens was killed, and the Rebels retreated back down the Peachtree road. Some of this fighting would have occurred in the area between Montclair and Peachtree.

The remaining troops of Bate's Confederate division, along with a few from Walker's division, then tried to slip around the Union left, to seize the Peachtree Creek bridge and almost surround them. However, Union General Newton rushed up his reserve brigade to extend his line further along present-day Brighton, and they poured several volleys into the Confederate ranks. The Rebels recoiled back into the dense undergrowth, and the fighting in this sector was over.

The battle continued westward along today's Collier Road. Although the Confederate forces achieved a temporary breakthrough, by the end of the day the Union lines had been restored. The Confederates actually possessed a considerable advantage in numbers in this part of the battlefield, but a lack of coordination among the units prevented them from using this to their advantage. (This problem would recur in most of the other defeats suffered by the Confederate army under General Hood.) The battle was a Union victory, and cost the Confederacy several thousand troops which it could ill afford.

The fighting that occurred within the boundaries of the neighborhood itself was not especially heavy, mostly due to the difficult terrain. Nevertheless, if one stands at the corner of Brighton and Montclair on a hot July day, one can perhaps visualize Sherman's blue-clad veterans lodged confidently behind their works along Brighton Road. One can perhaps see the Confederates maneuver in the valley below them, maybe along Wakefield or Camden. One can perhaps smell the drifts of smoke from the fire of thousands of rifles, and hear the boom of cannon and the screams of the wounded and dying. Perhaps one can even feel a sense of reverence for this special place, and an even deeper affection for the place we call home.

(For further reading on the Atlanta campaign, I recommend *Decision in the West* by Albert Castel, University Press of Kansas, 1992. Also, *The Campaign for Atlanta*, by William R. Scaife, 1993, includes an outstanding collection of detailed maps of the various battles, with modern roads and boundaries superimposed on them.

# C L A S S I F I E D S

**Information Needed.** Lisa Barnhart, who holds the Security position on the Community Club Board of Directors, has been approached by an individual named Reggie who would like to do needed work around our homes. Reggie has stated he was friends with the late Charlie Brown and Larry Burnett, both familiar to so many of us as day workers and more. If anyone has personal experience employing Reggie and can give him a reference please contact Lisa at 404/355-3707.

**Personal Trainer.** Deborah Gebhardt recommends our 2009 Sweetwater Pool Manager Candice DeBoer as a personal trainer. Candice has a BS in exercise and sport science, an MS in sports management, and ten years professional training experience. Nutrition and weight loss programs are available as well as group rates. Call Candice at 770/355-8264 or email her at candice55@earthlink.net.

**House Cleaner.** Jane and Chris Nagle highly recommend their house cleaner, Oscar Loro. His team is thorough, meticulous, and they do an outstanding job. Oscar has a keen eye for detail and does not leave things undone. He will use his own supplies, shows up on time, is flexible with respect to hours, works quickly; yet he is careful and unobtrusive. Please contact Oscar's wife, Edita, at 678/357-6605 to schedule a cleaning appointment..

**Art Sale.** Nicole Rabel recommends an art exhibit opening Thursday, November 12th, from 6:00 p.m - 9:00 p.m. at Astolfi Art, in the White Provision Loft Building at 1170 Howell Mill Road. Featured will be works by Atlanta artists Todd Murphy, Felice Sharp, and John Folsom. There is parking in the private deck beside the building or in the Bacchanalia/Star Provisions lot next door.

**Auto for Sale.** 1996 red Volvo 960 wagon with 3rd seat, CD changer, 128K miles. Good tires, recently refurbished AC. All service records available. Good student car. \$2,000. Call Wright Caughman at 404/355-7662.

## BROOKNOTES

*Sponsored by Your Neighbor*

*at 205 Huntington Road*

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